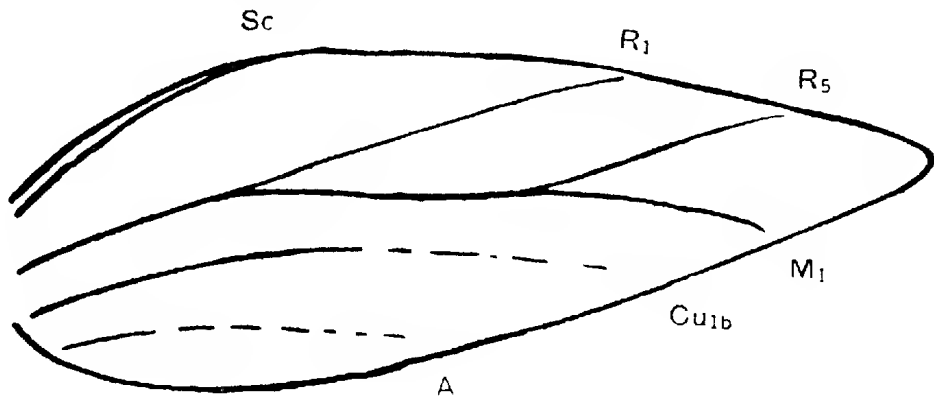


A NEW SPECIES OF THE FAMILY NEPTICULIDAE (LEPIDOPTERA)

By J. O. WILSON

[Read 14 September 1939]

Owing to the small size of these minute insects, which rightly have been classed as the smallest of the Lepidoptera, much patience is needed for their study. They are extremely difficult to see and handle, and therefore have been much overlooked, but are evidently much more numerous than appears at present.



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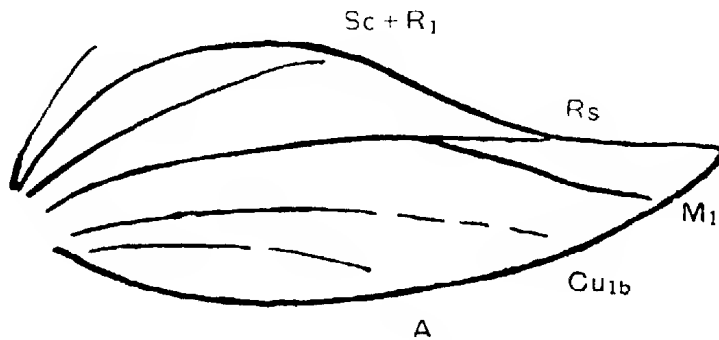


Fig. 1

The Nepticulidae are generally easy of recognition by the rough-haired head, the large scap which is concave beneath and forms the cyccap, and the neuration which is much degraded and of peculiar construction.

The larvae, so far as is known, are all leaf miners, usually pupating outside the mine.

The material for this paper, which comprises four examples of the following species, was taken by the University of Adelaide Anthropological Expedition to the Warburton Ranges in August, 1935. As these specimens were dry and there was little hope of successful setting, three have been mounted on cover glasses—which allows inspection from all angles—and the fourth used for dissection.

***Nepticula warburtonensis* n. sp**

♂, ♀, 3-4 mm. Head yellowish-ochreous. Antennae $\frac{2}{3}$, ochreous. Eyecap whitish-ochreous, large and smooth. Thorax ochreous. Patagia pale ochreous posteriorly with brown-black scales. Forewings lanceolate, costa arched then straight to apex, pale ochreous, irrorated throughout with brownish-black scales. Vein R_4 absent or coincident with R_5 . Cilia pale ochreous with scattered brownish-black scales near apex. Hindwings lanceolate with costa arched then concave to apex, light fuscous, cilia light fuscous.

Four specimens, coll. Wilson. No. 1 type, Nos. 2 and 3 paratypes, No. 4 dissected.

The evidence obtained from a study of descriptions of known Australian species indicates a close association superficially with *N. chalcitis* Meyr., from Western Australia. Detailed anatomical studies of many of the species is, however, lacking, and therefore correlation as to form and especially neurulation must stand in abeyance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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